

CLAIMS

1. A bacterial growth inhibitor or a bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB), comprising a puree or a fruit juice obtained from an acerola (*Malpighia*
5 *emerginata* DC.) fruit as an active ingredient thereof.

2. A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) according to claim 1, comprising a dried substance of the puree or the fruit juice obtained from the acerola fruit as an active ingredient thereof.

3. A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the puree or the fruit juice obtained from the acerola fruit is desugared.

4. A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) are bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus*.

5. A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to claim 4, wherein the bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus* are *Alicyclobacillus acidoterrestris*,
20 *Alicyclobacillus acidiphilus*, or *Alicyclobacillus herbarius*.

6. A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to any one of claims 1 to 5, which is to be added to food or drink.

7. A food or drink comprising the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6.

8. Use of a puree or a fruit juice obtained from an acerola fruit, a desugared substance thereof, or a dried substance thereof, for the purpose of inhibiting or blocking bacterial growth.

9. A method for manufacturing a food or drink, comprising a step of adding the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6.
10. A method for inhibiting or blocking a bacterial growth in a food or drink, comprising
5 a step of adding the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6, into the food or drink.